

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Vol. 6, No. 8

August - 1941

FARM HOME GOOD P R

By Stephen O. Harvey, Okla.

To work best with any group of people you must first become acquainted with them. According to Dale Carnegie, being genuinely interested in what the other fellow is doing will help you "win friends and influence people." A good way to become genuinely interested is to have a common interest. Living in town immediately throws up a barrier which is sometimes hard for a forester to break down when dealing with farmers. Since the Shelterbelt Assistant's work is largely with farmers, why wouldn't it be desirable for him to live on a farm or rather small tract where he might raise a good garden, a few chickens, cow and other essentials to cut down the cost of living. Being a farmer at heart this idea may appeal to me more than to some others.

On January 1, I had the opportunity of renting a home two miles out of the town at which I am stationed. (It has running water, R.E.A. lights, Butane gas, good chicken house, pasture for cow and plenty of room for a garden, at \$6.00 a month less rent than I was paying in town.) There is also a creek running through the farm, which has fish in it, most of which are still there.

What advantage does this have to a man trying to plant shelterbelts in a community? In the first place, the average farmer is more interested in what you have to say if he knows you are interested in what he is doing. Living on a farm makes it easier to "break the ice".

As a result of living in the country, my wife has joined a Home Demonstration Club, made up of women within one of my better shelterbelt concentration areas. She has entertained them in our home once. Also, she has attended several county-wide meetings. This month the Home Demonstration Clubs are having a county-wide picnic with their families. This again will give me an opportunity to get better acquainted with the farmers in the county. As the result of living in the country we have been asked to several farmer's parties.

Some of you may question the effect this will have on the business men of the town. To offset any ill effect it might have, some of my good cooperators saw to it that the County Commissioners furnished me office space in the County Agent's Office. This again has a desirable effect on the farmers, and keeps the County Agent conscious of a shelterbelt program as well as providing me with a much-needed office.

Not only does this type of set-up appeal to me from a public relations standpoint, but the whole family enjoys the country life and especially our own country butter, eggs, and milk, as well as some garden vegetables and a chicken dinner now and then.

SHELTERBELT BIRDS STEM ARMY WORM INVASION

Not all Texas farmers are against birds on their farms. Among those who appreciate the value of birds is W. P. Close, a large wheat farmer in Childress county who usually triples the county average in wheat production, being one of the county's best farmers.

This spring an army worm infestation threatened to destroy the entire wheat crop in the county. The worms became so bad that airplanes were used to distribute poisoned bran over the wheat fields. The Close farm was poisoned along with the others for here, too, the worms were bad. That is, bad everywhere except on a strip about 300 yards wide just north of the shelterbelt. Here birds making their home in the trees were valiantly keeping the worms under control. Every day they took a considerable toll of the millions of worms vainly trying to work up the stem of the wheat to the head. Many got through to the grain but when the field was harvested Mr. Close found that ten bushels per acre on the area had been saved from the worms above that saved without the birds on the rest of the field.

With \$52.00 saved for him by the birds and shelterbelt, Mr. Close is quite content about the \$40.00 he has spent this season for hand hoeing the trees.

- Thomas C. Croker Jr., Tex.

NORTH DAKOTA THINKS PLANTING MACHINE OK

Probably every state used Lobenstein's solution for labor troubles, i.e., the Planting Machine. But it is very doubtful if the other states had to depend on the machine for as high a percentage of their 1941 planting quota as did North Dakota. North Dakota's original planting quota was 365 miles and from the field men's knowledge of labor conditions it was the general consensus that 150 miles of this quota would have to be planted by machine if we were to clean up replacement planting, rehabilitation etc. That was the estimate, but it developed that obtaining sufficient labor during the planting season was an even bigger headache than anticipated.

North Dakota does not have a serious problem in obtaining land to plant, however. The continuous pecking away with long- and short-range publicity campaigns is beginning to bear fruit and to a large degree the field men are negotiating pretty much a year in advance. It was therefore the further consensus that the state could plant a 500-mile program in 1941 providing (1) stock could be adjusted, and (2) planting machines could be made available when wanted. North Dakota accepted Lobenstein's word that the planting machine was okey-dokey, and we have no reason to regret it.

Well, North Dakota didn't quite get the planting machines as requested. We gathered that some of the states, who were at first skeptical of "Hank's" brain child, had something to do with that but anyway the Regional Office did its best to make up for it by sending more machines, even though the "more" were a little late. We fared fairly well at that.

But this article is intended to show roughly what machines can do. Here's the record as reported by the field:

Devils Lake District	660-2/8	row miles
Valley City District	573-3/8	" "
Enderlin District	<u>514-6/8</u>	" "
Total	1748-3/8	row miles (count 'em)

The state ended up with 16 planting machines in operation. It took two to three days to get the machines to their place of operation and set up in production, and the arrival of the last ten machines was punctuated by the weather man turning on the water faucet which made it pretty tough to operate in some cases.

Double shifts were used on each machine wherever sufficient labor was available. Three to four men were used in a crew but lots of times enough men could not be secured to double shift the machines. Hank has a lot of dope on detailed results which he, no doubt, will put out in PLAINS FORESTER, but in studying over the District Officer's comments it appears that four man hours per row mile was about the general average of production. The farmer furnished power and drove tractor on all but the first three machines. This makes an interesting comparison. Hand planting in this state has run a pretty consistent average of 3/4 mile per crew day of 13 men or 13.9 man hours per row mile. Saving - 10 man hours per row mile in favor of the machine. There is an even greater saving, since subsoiling under the hand-planting method takes about three man hours per row mile, making the total saving 13 man-hours per row mile. There is also the factor of saving in transportation of laborers and their equipment, so that roughly a machine stands to save us about 20 man-months of labor and considerable "other" money per season.

Of course, where there is a surplus of labor which must be used the machine idea is not so good, but that isn't the case in North Dakota. We have never been able to get enough labor during planting season. The WPA complains about the peaks and valleys of our employment. The machine will help adjust this and give us a chance to level out the employment load. If we have an obligation to employ more labor we can adjust our program and employ this outside the peak season. If we save money on the planting job we can spend it on cultivation, fencing, T.S.I. work, etc. Replanting and other activities will still take lots of labor during the planting season. We may even need to revise our thinking about the fence policy and build the fences and get the farmer to contribute something else instead. (North Dakota farmers are building their own fences but are having trouble getting labor.)

In conclusion, I'd like to see the boys who were running these machines write about crew organization.

- L. A. Williams, N. Dak.

HOW IS THIS FOR COORDINATION?

According to a press dispatch, Fred Yaruss of Oklahoma arranged an educational meeting and demonstration trip in the interest of the shelterbelt planting program. There is nothing unusual about that, but listen to the list of speakers on the program:

Harry Rigdon, Extension Forester from Oklahoma A and M College
Glen Durrell, Oklahoma State Forester
Seth Low, of the Fish and Wildlife Service
Raymond Pettie, of the AAA
Chester J. Dotter, Farm Security Administration
John R. Nelson, Ken Taylor, and Yaruss, of the PSFP

They say that the secret of success is getting a lot of people to work for you, and certainly that group is in a position to be of a lot of help to Yaruss.

TRAINING AND CAMPING A GOOD MIXTURE

Realizing that I & E is one of the most fundamental elements of this Project, the Kansans welcomed the opportunity of attending an I & E training camp under the supervision of E. L. Perry, of the Regional Office, and their own T. Russell Reitz. Twenty men and many of their families attended the encampment at Camp Restmore (soon nicknamed Camp Sweatmore) near Wichita during the middle of July.

After receiving an inspirational talk by Prof. H. T. Hill, of Kansas State College, on the art of public speaking, most of the men felt they could make considerable improvement in this side of their I & E program. As to preparing news releases, most of the men apparently felt they could already do a pretty good job of that. Given an assignment to work on overnight, very few admitted spending over 15-20 minutes on it (Wichita was too close by). Much to their surprise, however, Ed Perry did say that most of the releases were pretty good. Everybody appreciated his criticism of each unsigned article.

With a burst of oratory, Russell Reitz displayed the first advantage of the previous day's instruction on public speaking. He had everybody following him in learning how Land Use Planning can be used to advantage in pushing tree planting on a community basis. And that was done while the thermometer soared up to 104° F.

Aside from the business of the meeting, the high spot of the camp was getting acquainted with the new members of the Project and meeting again the older ones. The wives who came enjoyed meeting and gossiping with the other wives. They also enjoyed getting to meet the men whom their husbands had cussed and discussed. They added life to the camp by serving a picnic supper one night.

The camp site had been chosen to lend the proper atmosphere to a meeting of foresters. Along the bank of the Ninnescah River, most of the cabins

were under large cottonwood trees. But the first night off found most of the campers roaming around the Wichita airport which is the hub of an industry that is spending millions of defense money for aircraft production.

Everybody voted it a profitable meeting. The only suggestion for improvement heard was that the next training camp be held in the cooler weather of spring or fall when it is easier to absorb instruction. Only about a fourth of the participants were native Kansans, inured to its summer heat.

- Carl L. Hawkes, Kans.

PLANTING STOCK QUESTION REARS ITS HEAD AGAIN

Karl Ziegler's article in June PLAINS FORESTER on quality of planting stock is thought-provoking. The nurserymen generally will agree that any change of growing methods which will produce better stock is well worth while. But the solution of the problem is not so simple as suggested.

The idea of summer root-pruning of tap-rooted species has the drawback that the treatment kills all the trees. Plum seedlings 8" to 10" tall died when the bottom two inches of the root was severed. Possibly later in the summer when side roots had become established, the shock would not be so great. Have any of the other nurserymen tried late summer under-cutting?

In general, it is easy to go wrong in assuming that the critical factors of conifer transplanting are equally applicable to deciduous stock. The two kinds of trees are an entirely different breed of cats. Tests to date indicate that top-root ratio in deciduous seedlings is of less importance than stem size, probably due to the concentration of stored plant food near the collar zone of deciduous trees during their dormant period.

The difficulty in establishing hackberry, bur oak, etc. is not entirely a matter of lack of small roots, but rather the reluctance of the roots of these trees to form new roots from the cut ends, or from adventitious buds. (Willow fence posts will take root in moist ground.)

In view of recent work with growth substances and gases which will cause roots to break out from the stems of growing plants, and profuse rooting of cuttings which otherwise cannot be made to root at all, it does not seem too fantastic to anticipate treating our bundles of trees with a gas or solution which will make the hackberry and oak root like cottonwoods.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

KNOWLEDGE OF TREE USES MAKES TREE BOOSTERS

I tried something different in the way of public meetings last month. It failed, because of poor planning on my part, but I'll try again, with better chance of success on the basis of what I learned.

I called an educational meeting on Farm Forestry for all cooperators. The meeting was open to the public, of course, but was designed for the benefit

of cooperators rather than the general public as some of our meetings are. The list of speakers included all the authorities on forestry in the State-- and they all showed up to speak.

The object of the meeting was to bring to actual tree owners a more complete understanding of the value of trees to the farmer. A better appreciation of farm forestry practices will make trees a great deal more valuable to the farmer. It is appalling the lack of information prevalent regarding the uses to which farm timber can be put.

Mr. Harry Rigdon, Oklahoma's Extension Farm Forester, in his talk taught me more about farm forestry than I had learned by myself in my three years on the Project. Imagine how valuable such information can be to farmers who do not have the advantage of a forestry background.

Such ideas as planting trees for all purposes for which trees are beneficial are nothing new to us, but use of timber in many ways on the farm is something which many of us overlook. Such information gives us an even greater appreciation of the work we are doing than we could otherwise have.

Time and methods of harvesting timber are subjects which State men are better acquainted with than we are, inasmuch as almost all of our time is concentrated in the growing instead of utilization of farm timber.

Passing such information on to the farmer at a public meeting where he can see and meet experts in the field of forestry will make that farmer more appreciative of his trees and that much more of a booster for our work. And after all, the "man who owns one" should be the best booster for the shelterbelt idea.

Don't call any kind of meeting at a time when the farmers are not likely to show up. I tried it during July, which I thought would be ideal, but it rained a few days before the meeting and most of the cooperators had to stay at home and plow. Next time I'll call it when no essential farm work is pending.

- Fred R. Yaruss, Okla.

NOVEL TYPE WALL USES GREEN COTTONWOOD BLOCKS

A novel method for putting heat-insulating air spaces into a concrete wall is being used in the erection of a new WPA warehouse in Bismarck, North Dakota. Short lengths of split, green cottonwood logs are set, like bricks, into the wet concrete. In a short time the green wood will shrink and decay, leaving the spaces practically empty.

The method is economical, constructors say, and produces a wall stronger than hollow tile, and with better insulation properties. The idea originated in Scandinavian lands, and was brought to this country by immigrants. It has been used in farm buildings in the region, but the Bismarck warehouse represents its first introduction into public buildings.

(Copied from Science News Letter)

- F. E. Cobb, N. Dak.

THINKS "CHINKS" NOT ROBUST ENOUGH

I have just completed an inspection of 1941 planted Chinese Elm and find that about nine out of every ten trees are standing just about as they were when planted. Very little if any new growth has occurred, leaves are about the size of a squirrel's ear, and when you pull the trees up there is no sign of any new feeder roots. However, they all seem to be alive.

I wish some member of the Regional Office Silviculture Division would explain what has happened to the Chinese Elm this time. One year it is the grasshoppers, the next year it is June beetles, and then the freeze kills them, to say nothing of the rabbits.

It seems to me that we could and should plant more of other species and fewer Chinese Elm. I am expecting answers aplenty to this, so let them come--I am looking for them.

- Ben H. Gilbert, Okla.

(The symptoms described are quite typical of stock held a long while in cold storage. Another possibility is that this stock was frost damaged in the nursery last fall. These trees will have a harder time pulling through to next spring than normal one-year-old plantings. D.S.O. - R.O.)

IT MUST HAVE HAD A TIME FUSE

Nearly three years ago Leland Case, editor of "The Rotarian," saw a shelterbelt press dispatch from South Dakota, got interested in the idea, and decided to write an article about it for his magazine. He queried us for the necessary material and pictures, which were furnished him.

Recently we had a very nice letter from him advising us that he had finally written the story and apologizing for the long delay. Three years had apparently broadened his conservation horizon, though, for the story as published deals with many angles of conservation. Of the pictures used two were of the PSFP, six were other Forest Service pictures, and several dealt with soil conservation. Still, it is nice to assume, however true it may be, that all this conservation consciousness grew out of the author having become intrigued with the idea that a little strip of forest could by some sort of hocus-pocus be produced on the treeless Plains and made to have a profound effect upon the economic and social welfare of an embattled farmer.

RISKY

The Great Plains can be made a dependable source of a large portion of our essential food supply. Investments in their development can be rescued from uncertainty and under proper conditions new investments can be made securely. The plains can be transformed from a risky adventure and a recurrent liability into a stable basis of economic and social profit to their inhabitants and to the whole country.

- The Future of the Great Plains
From "Land Policy Review"

WARNING TO GUN OWNERS

There are many "scatter gun" hunters among the personnel of the PSFP, and of course a great many shotguns of various types and vintages show up in the rabbit hunts which we sponsor. The following extracts from an article recently appearing in "Outdoor Nebraska" should therefore prove interesting - to say nothing of possibly preventing serious injury to shooters.

"Because of a persisting tendency on the part of owners of twist-barreled guns to ignore past warnings, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute feels that the time is ripe for a new warning, emphasizing the fact that there are NO modern smokeless loads that are safe for use in guns having Damascus or other twist barrels. Accordingly, the Institute's Technical Committee has authorized the issuance of the following, directed to owners of Damascus-barreled guns:

"Never use smokeless powder loads-even LIGHT smokeless powder loads-in guns having Damascus or other twist barrels! To ignore this warning is to court severe personal injury through possible gun barrel rupture.

"Some sportsmen still think twist barrels will handle modern loads safely as long as the extra heavy 'long range' loads are avoided. This is a fallacy. Twist barrels were designed back in the days of black powder, which is far less powerful and develops a much lower pressure than any of our modern gunpowders. Even the so-called 'light' modern loads are unsafe in twist barrels.

"Many of these barrels are the handiwork of highly skilled craftsmen. But regardless of the quality of workmanship employed, the method of combining low-carbon steel with iron, and the weakening heating process to which they have been subjected during manufacture, render them unsafe for the high pressures developed by modern loads, for which they emphatically were not designed. American manufactures have not made them since the advent of modern progressive burning or 'smokeless' powder.

"If you own a Damascus or other twist-barrel gun, don't take chances. Retire it now, and avoid the possibility of accident and injury."

- Paul H. Roberts, R.O.

HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUBS MAY AID IN NEGOTIATIONS

As the time for another big negotiation and planting season creeps rapidly upon us we begin to wonder what methods to use that might be effective in increasing the flow of applications. It is quite possible that in the past six years all methods have been tried somewhere on the Project with proved results, either good or bad. Be this as it may, we all like to try something that is new to us as individuals, with the high hopes of over-subscribing our planting quotas.

With this incentive, planned shelterbelt tours for Home Demonstration Clubs and the setting of more shelterbelt cooperation as a community achievement goal for these organizations have been attempted in the Watonga District.

Early in July the Home Demonstration Agent of Blaine County sent a letter to 13 of her clubs, located in acceptable shelterbelt territory, offering them the opportunity of a tour to cover shelterbelts and other points of interest in the area. Thus far seven clubs have set dates for their trips. There still being at least a month more of favorable conditions, it is hoped the balance of the clubs will accept the invitation.

Two of these tours have been completed, and although the attendance did not require the services of a highway patrol escort, the attitude of the participants was quite encouraging. Questions in regard to shelterbelts and tree planting were many and in some instances were answered by other members of the club, indicating an attentive attitude and some knowledge of our work. As one group was dispersing, after returning from a tour, a member stated that she had a much better time than expected and had gained information she would pass on to her friends.

Later in the season, after the completion of all tours, it is planned that a letter will be sent to the clubs suggesting that they set more and better shelterbelt tree planting as a community goal--perhaps even a township tree committee run by the farmers' wives, who, after all, usually have 75% of the "say" as to what is done on the farm.

- W. G. Kunkle, Okla.

FASTENING PLANTING BOXES TO TRUCKS

This spring, after it was too late to be of advantage to anybody else, we worked out a new method of fastening the planting boxes to the truck bed. It seems more satisfactory than any we have heard of yet, and so we are passing it on now in order that it may help somebody else next year.

We used three long bolts on either side of the truck. They were long enough to go through the floor of the truck bed and clamp on the top of the planting box. We figured that a bolt fastening down the bottom of a loaded box would just rip out in case of strain. If the top of the box were held to the floor, it should be immovable.

We put one bolt between the two boxes on the sides so that it would clamp over both boxes. Then we had one bolt on each end. There were only six nuts to disengage if the boxes were to be removed from the truck.

For the bolts, we used some of the neck yokes that came with the grape-hoes, and also some concrete re-enforcing rods we found in the county junk pile. On the end of the bolts we made a hook that reached over the top of the ends of the boxes. On the middle bolt we fastened a strip of metal to make a "T" with a hook on either side that would reach over the ends of the boxes.

- Carl L. Hawkes, Kans.

SHELTERBELTER PREACHES TO CLERGY

W. G. Baxter, of the Kansas State Office, recently had a rather unusual speaking assignment. Thirty Catholic priests from all over the United States, and constituting the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, met at Atchison, Kansas. Baxter made a talk before them, showing Kodachrome slides, and says that the response was very good.

TOWARD RIGHT ATTITUDES

"The following is quoted from a talk by Dr. Ira A. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, to young employees of that Service.

"You can help a great deal by remembering always that none of your fellow employees is perfect, and by making allowances for imperfections. You yourself are not perfect and none of your superior officers is. Each one of us makes mistakes, and will continue to do so as long as he tries to accomplish anything. You can help greatly by overlooking such mistakes and being helpful instead of critical. One of the commonest failings of persons in the Government service is the tendency to criticise other workers for small and trivial mistakes, at the same time overlooking or forgetting their own similar errors. The habit of criticising other people for minor mistakes and talking about them either within or without the Service in derogatory terms is really a very ignominious way of trying to glorify one's self. It will help you greatly if you will try to avoid forming this habit. It is just as easy and much more profitable to be helpful to the other fellow. Give him a boost if you see that he is in trouble and try to help him out rather than to add to his difficulties. I can tell you from 26 years of personal experience in the Service that it pays big dividends, and the rewards come sometimes in the most unexpected places. Many times people have repaid me for little kindnesses and little helps I gave them without any great trouble to myself. There is no room in a Governmental organization for petty jealousies and personal feuds. What I have said about criticizing people in your own Service applies with equal force to those in other Services of the Federal and State governments. They also have difficult jobs to carry on. We do not know well the limitations or difficulties under which they may be working and it certainly does not speak well for us as public servants if we find fault with them. You will help greatly in perfecting team work by assuming a fair and friendly attitude toward your fellow public servants, and teamwork is really the thing that makes the program go. I would rather have in the organization one hundred good men who know how to work together effectively than a thousand brilliant individualists unable to coordinate their efforts. I think that any other responsible administrative officer would tell you the same thing."

- Northern Region News

LEADERSHIP ON TIES

In the shakedown of time President Roosevelt may take rank, as his admirers expect, with Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, or he may be listed, as the opposition hopes, with the numerous forgotten men who have come and gone in the presidential office. It is not for his contemporaries to read history's last word concerning him.

But for one thing certainly Mr. Roosevelt will be dear to the hearts of his countrymen, regardless of party, while this nation endures. He was one president, it will be said, who went without a necktie in hot weather and encouraged his visitors to do likewise.

- New York Times

"FOREST TREES AND HEDGES FOR THE WESTERN PRAIRIES"

Sometime in the early 70's, exact date unknown, one S. T. Kelsey was employed as "Forester for the A. T. & S. F. Railroad Company," and got out a circular bearing the above title. It was directed "To the settlers along the line of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad" and the author avowed an intention "to test the growth and value of the different varieties of forest, fruit and ornamental trees, farm and garden crops, etc. on the different soils along the line of the road from Hutchinson to the west line of the state, to ascertain as early as possible the adaptation of each tree and plant to every variety of soil, and the best times and modes of planting and tending." Following are some of his suggestions for tree planting, a perusal of which is likely to give our modern Shelterbelters cause to wonder whether we have learned much that is really new in the art of Plains silviculture after all.

Soil should be well and deeply worked as for a good farm crop. If in prairie soil it should, if possible, be broken early the season before planting so as to be thoroughly rotted.

Admitting that most forest tree writers advise planting close, usually four by four feet, he considers it best on the prairie to space the rows from eight to twelve feet apart, and trees three to four feet in the row. He gets a little "off the beam" here, however, by advocating the growing of crops between the rows "to pay the cost of cultivation."

And here is the way the planting is to be done. "By inserting the spade in the earth and prying backward, then lifting a little foreward, an opening is made into which the plant is inserted to the proper depth. When the spade is withdrawn the earth falls back to the plant and is pressed down with the foot. An active man, with a boy to help, will put in on well-prepared ground from one to two acres per day."

This early forester believed in thorough cultivation and he was also apparently looking ahead to the Armistice Day 1940 freeze, as witness the following: "After planting, give good cultivation as for a crop of corn, working the ground well for three or four years in the early part of the season, but not later than the first of August, as late cultivation is apt to produce unripe wood to be damaged by the following winter."

And here is our old friend Wood Products from Thinnings. "As the trees become large enough to crowd and check each other's growth, they should be thinned out from time to time, always leaving the straightest and best. The thinnings may be used for fuel, fencing and various other purposes on the farm."

He had nothing but contempt for what he called the "slipshod forest", which is not to be thoroughly cultivated, but in a spirit of resignation he admits that some people will not cultivate trees and suggests that the only alternative is to plant them very close together and hope that they will "take the ground" and smother the weeds. "We only suggest this plan," he says, "to those who will not adopt a better plan at a little more labor and expense."

In concluding his treatise Kelsey said, "It is hoped that every settler will as soon as possible plant out a grove of trees. It will beautify the farm and protect yourselves and animals from the scorching summer sun and the chilling winds of winter. It will protect your farm crops, orchards and gardens from hot, drying winds and pelting storms. We fully believe that even if the timber was of no value it would still pay to plant one-fourth of the land in forest trees as a protection to the rest, but when we consider that in addition to the benefits to be derived from the growing trees the wood itself that can be taken off will pay better than ordinary farm crops, it would seem that every prairie farmer has inducement enough to plant out a few acres."

A copy of the ancient circular was unearthed by the Kansas Unit and furnished the Regional Office.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

R. O. VISITORS

It was our good fortune that the vacation routes of E. L. Demmon, Director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, and Perry Thompson, Chief of the Division of Personnel Management in Washington, took them through Lincoln. We were happy to have them even though time permitted only a short stop.

Joe Fitzwater, Chief of the Division of State Forestry, spent a couple of days with us while making a cross-country trip. We regretted that we had no celebrities for him to meet (the last time he was here we had a picnic with Miss Mari Sandoz in attendance) but he didn't seem to mind just mixing with the home folks.

WELCOME BACK

The office has lost that empty look since Dave Olson has returned after a long illness. We missed you plenty, Dave, and sure are glad to have you around again.

STRAINS FROM LOHENGRIN

All summer we've been trying to find out where Beulah (Boots) Bowen, of Fiscal Control, was going to spend her vacation, but she just didn't seem to know. Well, she knew all right, and a lot more that she wasn't telling. A flash announcement has just reached us that she and Merle Humphries were married somewhere in Nebraska and that they are honeymooning in the Black Hills. The good wishes of all of us to you both, Mr. and Mrs. Humphries.

VITAL STATISTICS

Little Chris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Barnes, isn't going to be the Big Chief any more. He has run into real competition, with the advent of a baby sister. Wendy Ann was born July 5, just too late to celebrate her future birthdays with fire crackers and Roman candles, but she'll get a double holiday each year, anyway.

Elton Howland made the round of Divisions the other day with a pink and white basket instead of the usual mail bag, and it certainly was an improvement. For it contained the smiling, chesty little Johnny who was born to Mr. and Mrs. Howland on July 28. The formal name is John Elton.